

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A roofing hatchet comprising:

a head having a first, striking end and a second, bitted end, said head further comprising:

striking means for driving a fastener into a surface;

holding means for holding a fastener on said striking means in preparation for driving a fastener into a surface;

gauging means for gauging a distance from said bitted end;

cutting means for cutting roofing material;

pulling means for pulling a fastener from a surface;

a handle; and

securing means for attaching a handle to said head.

2. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 1, wherein said striking means comprises a striking face at said first end of said head.

3. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 2, wherein said holding means comprises a magnet imbedded within said head behind said striking face.

4. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 3, wherein said holding means further comprises:

a shouldered bore formed within said head at said striking face, said shouldered bore further comprising:

a first bore having an axis substantially normal to said striking face, a diameter and a depth, and

a second bore having an axis coinciding with said axis of said first bore, a diameter, said diameter being greater than said diameter of said first bore, and a depth, said depth being less than said depth of said first bore,

the difference in said diameters of said first bore and said second bore forming a shoulder within said shouldered bore;

a cap, dimensioned and configured to forceably and frictionally fit within said shouldered bore such that:

a first end of said cap, having a diameter substantially equal to said diameter of said second bore of said shouldered bore, is substantially flush with said striking face of said head, and

a second end of said cap, having a diameter substantially equal to said diameter of said first bore of said shouldered bore, abuts a bottom of said first bore of said shouldered bore,

said second end of said cap having an internal bore having a diameter less than said diameter of said second end

of said cap and a depth, said diameter and said depth being substantially equal to a diameter and a height of said magnet;

said magnet matingly fitting within said bore of said cap and said cap matingly fitting within said shouldered bore such that said shoulder of said cap abuts said shoulder of said shouldered bore and said second end of said cap abuts a bottom of said first bore of said shouldered bore.

5. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 4, wherein said magnet is magnetized along a cylindrical axis such that fasteners attracted by said magnet will automatically center on said axis of said magnet.

6. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 1 wherein said gauging means comprises:

at least one aperture, each of said at least one aperture being positioned along a line substantially normal to said second end of said head, and being spaced a predetermined distance both from the second end of said head and from any other apertures of said at one aperture present; and

a threaded bolt extending through one of said at least one aperture and having a substantially cylindrical head and a threaded shank; and

an internally threaded, substantially cylindrical nut engaging said threaded shank of said threaded bolt,

said head of said bolt and said nut acting as a stop for gauging a distance from said second, bitted end of said head.

7. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 1, wherein said cutting means comprises a blade housing, said blade housing comprising:

a substantially rectangular depression in one side of said second, bitted end of said head, a first end of said depression open to said bitted end, said depression sized and configured to adjustably receive a utility knife blade, and

at least one threaded aperture proximate said depression, each of said at least one threaded aperture receiving a threaded bolt,

at least one threaded bolt, each of said at least one threaded bolt having a head having a diameter greater than a diameter of a shank of said threaded bolt,

said head of said at least one threaded bolt adapted to adjustably retain said utility knife blade in said blade housing.

8. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 1, wherein said pulling means comprises a "V"-shaped notch formed in a lower edge of said second, bitted end of said head, said notch adapted to

receive a shank of a fastener embedded in a surface such that a head of said fastener is held above said "V"-shaped notch, thereby facilitating pulling said fastener from said surface.

9. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 1, wherein said securing means comprises:

an anti-rotational aperture formed through said head proximate said striking face, said aperture formed at a predetermined angle relative to said striking face to receive a handle such that the angle of said handle, relative to said striking face, optimizes the force transfer from the hand of a user to a fastener being driven into a sloping surface.

10. A roofing hatchet, as defined in claim 9, wherein said handle is formed of at least one material selected from the group consisting of: wood, polycarbonate, and fiberglass.

11. A roofing hatchet comprising:

a head having a first, striking end and a second, bitted end, said head further comprising:

striking means for driving a fastener into a surface, said striking means comprising a striking face at said first end of said head;

holding means for holding a fastener on said striking face, said holding means comprising a magnet imbedded behind the striking face, said magnet magnetized along a cylindrical axis such that fasteners attracted by said magnet will automatically center on said axis of said magnet;

gauging means for gauging a distance from said bitted end, said gauging means comprising:

at least one aperture, each of said at least one aperture being positioned along a line substantially normal to said second end of said head, and being spaced a predetermined distance both from the second end of said head and from any other apertures of said at one aperture present; and

a threaded bolt extending through one of said at least one aperture and having a substantially cylindrical head and a threaded shank and an internally threaded, substantially cylindrical nut engaging the threaded shank of said threaded bolt,

said head of said bolt and said nut acting as a stop for gauging a distance from said second, bitted end of said head;

cutting means for cutting roofing materials, said cutting means comprising:

a substantially rectangular depression in one side of said second bitted end of said head, a first end of said

depression open to said bitted end, said depression sized and configured to adjustably receive a utility knife blade, and

at least one threaded aperture proximate said depression, each of said at least one threaded aperture receiving

a threaded bolt, each of said at least one threaded bolt having a head having a diameter greater than a diameter of a shank of said threaded bolt,

said head of said at least one threaded bolt adapted to adjustably retain said utility knife blade in said blade housing;

pulling means for pulling a fastener from a surface, said pulling means comprising a "V"-shaped notch formed in a lower edge of said second, bitted end of said head, said notch adapted to receive a shank of a fastener embedded in a surface such that a head of said fastener is held above said "V"-shaped notch, thereby facilitating pulling said fastener from said surface;

a handle; and

securing means for attaching a handle to said head, said securing means comprising an anti-rotational aperture formed through said head proximate said striking face, said aperture formed at a predetermined angle relative to said striking face to receive a handle such that the angle of said handle, relative to said striking face, optimizes the force transfer from the hand of

a user to a fastener being driven into a sloping surface.